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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BOGOTA 16191

TERREP

PANAMA FOR ADS
STATE FOR DICK GANNON, DS/ATA/CTP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, EPET, ECON, CO
SUBJECT: CANO-LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE SABOTAGE RECORD

REF: (A) BOGOTA 15981 (B) BOGOTA 14342 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: ECONOFF RECEIVED FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL
SUMMARY OF SABOTAGE INCIDENTS AGAINST CANO-LIMON-COVENAS
PIPELINE AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS IN ARAUCA FROM
OCCIDENTAL REPS. INFORMATION ON COST OF REPAIRS SHOULD
BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY OR AS ESTIMATE. OCCIDENTAL
REP EXPECTS SABOTAGE SITUATION ALONG THE PIPELINE TO
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WORSEN IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. DATELINE OF INCIDENTS:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 5 NOV 2002 200201334
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 17 NOV 2011

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1984

2/15: ELN GUERRILLAS ATTACKED AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGED
TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS OF OCCIDENTAL AT THE CANO-LIMON
FIELD

9/22: HELICOL HELICOPTER MACHINEGUNNED WHILE AT BASE
CAMP. ONE EMPLOYEE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. EXPLOSIVES
ROBBED FROM THE BASE CAMP.

10/12: MANNESSMAN EMPLOYEES VERNER SCHOETT, TWO
COLOMBIANS, A DRIVER AND A TRANSLATOR ABDUCTED.

11/11: GUERRILLAS DESTROYED A HELICOPTER, THREE
BULLDOZERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT.

1985

5/24: ELN DESTROYS SECOND HELICOL HELICOPTER.
HELICOPTER WAS WORKING WITH GEOSOURCE (SEISMIC
EVALUATION COMPANY) LEADING TO GEOSOURCE WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE WORK AREA.

5/25: ELN GUERRILLAS ATTACK AND DESTROY PARKER DRILLING
RIG 110. MILITARY PROTECTION WAS REQUIRED BEFORE THE
WELL BEGUN BY THE PARKER RIG COULD BE COMPLETED. THE
MILITARY STATIONED 40 TROOPS AT THE SITE.

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6/20: ELN GUERRILLAS BLOW UP SUPPORT COLUMN OF THE RIO
BOJABA BRIDGE.

6/27: ELN GUERRILLAS BLOW UP BRIDGES LEADING TO THE
RONDON WELL AND THE AREAS OF PUENTE CARANALL, LOS
CHORROS, AGUACHICA AND LA YE.

10/16: CONSAS EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN ROAD BUILDING
ABDUCTED.

10/19: COLEXCON EMPLOYEE ABDUCTED. COLEXCON ABANDONS
THEIR WORK CAMP. EMPLOYEE HAS NOT YET TURNED UP.

10/29: INDIAN GROUP TAKES OVER TECHINT CAMP. ELN

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PRESSURE BELIEVED TO BE THE CAUSE FOR THE TAKEOVER.

11/5: PIPELINE VALVE DAMAGED BY GUERRILLA ATTACK.

11/16: TWO EMPLOYEES OF PARKER DRILLING KILLED.

11/19: 15 CASES OF DYNAMITE STOLEN FROM TECHINT CAMP.

11/22: GUERRILLAS PRESSURE INHABITANTS OF CRAMALES INTO
TAKING A HELICOPTER AND HOLDING IT IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR
DEMANDS BEING MET.

11/25: POLICE BASE IN CANO VERDE ATTACKED BY GUERRILLAS.

11/27: PERSISTANT RUMORS OF IMPENDING GUERRILLA ATTACK
LEAD TO EVACUATION OF THE RONDON OIL WELL CAMP.

12/8: ELN ABDUCT ROBERT PULIDO, OCCIDENTAL ENGINEER.
HE IS RELEASED 2 DAYS LATER.

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12/10: EPL ATTACKS TECHINT AND BECHTEL CAMPS IN
NORTHERN SANTANDER. TWO BECHTEL EMPLOYEES ABDUCTED.

12/24: ELN ABDUCTS 6 GSI COMPANY EMPLOYEES. THEY HAVE
NOT YET BEEN RELEASED.

12/25: ELN ATTACKS THE RONDON WELL AND A GSI CAMP.
EXPLOSIVES STOLEN.
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12/27: CHEVRON RECEIVES EPL EXTORTION DEMAND FOR
CONTINUED SAFE OPERATION OF ITS PIPELINES.

1986

1/1: GUERRILLA SABOTAGE AT TECHINT INSTALLATIONS
RESULTS IN DESTRUCTION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT WORTH ROUGHLY
40 MILLION PESOS.

1/10: GUERRILLAS PRESENT EXTORTION DEMAND TO DISTRAL
FOR US 350,000 TO ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS.

1/27: GSI SEISMIC CREW THREATENED BY GUERRILLAS.

1/30: VALVE BOLTS STOLEN LEADING TO OIL SPILL.

2/1: COLEXCON EMPLOYEE ABDUCTED BY THE ELN.

2/12: ELN TAKES MANNESMANN CAMP, THREATENS WORKERS.

2/14: ANSON DRILLING EMPLOYEE HELD BY GUERRILLAS FOR
SEVERAL HOURS.

2/22: ELN BURNS HELICOPTER WORKING FOR INTERCOL.
INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT THE GSI CAMP. 4 CASES OF
DYNAMITE ROBBED.

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3/1: CHEVRON PIPELINE BOMBED RESULTING IN OIL SPILL.

3/5: POLICE JEEP AND MILITARY TRUCK DYNAMITED.

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3/7: POLICE HELICOPTER SHOT DOWN.

3/8: POLICE STATION IN FORTUL ATTACKED. POLICE UNIT IN
ISLA DEL CHARO ATTACKED, GUERRILLAS AND POLICE KILLED.
ZULIA PIPELINE BOMBED RESULTING IN OIL SPILL.

3/11: ELN ABDUCTS HANS FISHBORN OF COLEXCON. HE WAS
DEAD AUGUST 29. MILITARY PATROL ATTACKED BY
GUERRILLAS. PIPELINE VALVE BLOWN UP BY ELN RESULTING IN
OIL SPILL.

3/16: MANNESMANN EMPLOYEE PETER VRENKEN ABDUCTED BY
ELN. RELEASED JULY 4.

4/12: TECHINT/WILBROS PIPELINE SABOTAGED.

4/13: HELICOL HELICOPTER FIRED UPON, PILOT SEVERELY
WOUNDED.

4/14: HELICOPTER PILOTS KNOWN TO WORK FOR OIL COMPANIES
RECEIVE THREATS WARNING THEM NOT TO FLY IN CERTAIN AREAS.

4/22: ELN ATTACK MANNESMANN CAMP.

4/28: SHOTS FIRED AT OCCIDENTAL CAMP, APPARENTLY AIMED
AT COMPANY EXECUTIVE.

5/20: EXPLOSIVES AND DETONATORS DISCOVERED ALONG THE
PIPELINE.

5/25: PUMP STATION SABOTAGE LEADS TO OIL SPILL. THIS
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN INSIDE JOB WHERE MANIPULATION OF
VALVES RATHER THAN EXPLOSION CAUSED THE OIL SPILL.

6/5: ELN ROBS 40 POUNDS OF DYNAMITE FROM GSI CAMP.

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6/13: COMMUNICATION ANTENNA CABLES CUT, LEAVING
OCCIDENTAL WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MILITARY OR
OUTLYING AREAS.

6/16: HELITAXI HELICOPTER WORKING FOR GSI BURNED BY
GUERRILLAS.

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7/2: PIPELINE BLOCKING VALVE DAMAGED. REPAIR COST: US
603,000 DOLLARS.

7/8: EXPLOSIVES ROBBED FROM GSI CAMP.

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7/14: ELN DYNAMITES TWO PIPELINE VENT VALVES RESULTING
IN OIL SPILL OF 45,737 BARRELS. . REPAIRS ALONE COST US
456,000 DOLLARS.
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7/17: FARC GUERRILLAS THREATEN EMPLOYEES OF WESTERN
GEOPHYSICAL WORKING IN THE CANO-LIMON FIELD.

7/22: ELN ATTACK AND SERIOUSLY DAMAGES BANADIA PUMP
STATION. REPAIR COST:US 1,604,000 MILLION DOLLARS.
PUMPING OF CRUDE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

7/23: PIPELINE BOMBED BY ELN. PIPE DENTED, BUT NOT
RUPTURED. REPAIR COST: US 100,000 DOLLARS.

7/30: ELN DEMANDS 15 MILLION PESOS AND 15 RADIOS FROM
OCCIDENTAL. THREATEN FURTHER ACTION AGAINST THE
PIPELINE IF DEMANDS ARE NOT MET. PIPELINE AGAIN BOMBED,
BUT NO DAMAGE RECORDED.

8/20: ELN DYNAMITES PIPELINE VALVE RESULTING IN OIL
SPILL OF 1,200 BARRELS. PUMPING SUSPENDED FOR THREE
DAYS. LOSSES ESTIMATED AT US 10 MILLION DOLLARS.
REPAIR COST US 212,000 DOLLARS.

8/26: OCCIDENTAL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER BLOWN UP. IN
THIS INCIDENT, 40 TROOPS WERE GUARDING THE TOWER. THE
EPL ATTACK CONSISTED OF ROUGHLY 150 GUERRILLAS. REPAIR
COST: US 250,000 DOLLARS.

9/6: HELICOL PILOTS THREATENED AND TOLD NOT TO OVERFLY
CERTAIN GUERRILLA HELD AREAS.

9/13: GUERRILLAS DYNAMITE PIPELINE. PIPELINE DENTED
BUT NOT RUPTURED. THREE METERS OF PIPE HAD TO BE
REPLACED.

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9/18: GUERRILLAS DYNAMITE PIPELINE. PIPELINE
RUPTURED. NO OIL SPILL BECAUSE PIPELINE WAS DOWN FOR

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REPAIR OF MAJOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY SEVERE LANDSLIDE 9/10.

10/3: TWO HELICOPTERS WORKING FOR WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL STOLEN BY THE ELN AND BURNED. THE PILOTS WERE RELEASED. GUERRILLAS DYNAMITE THE PIPELINE, RUPTURING IT AND CAUSING AN OIL SPILL OF 8,000 BARRELS. PUMPING WAS SUSPENDED. COST OF REPAIR: US 531,000 DOLLARS.

10/19: GUERRILLAS DYNAMITE THE PIPELINE, BENDING BUT NOT RUPTURING IT. REPAIR COST: US 100,000 DOLLARS.

10/25: GSI CAMP ATTACKED BY THE ELN. AEROEXPRESOS BOGOTA HELICOPTER AND 3000 GALLONS OF JP-1 FUEL BURNED.

10/29: ELN BURN HEAVY EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO INGESER. THREE CHARGES OF DYNAMITE PLACED AGAIN THE PIPELINE, DENTING BUT NOT RUPTURING IT.

11/5: ELN DYNAMITES PIPELINE VALVE. PIPE DESTROYED LEADING TO MAJOR OIL SPILL. PUMPING SHUT DOWN.

11/8: GUERRILLAS DYNAMITE THREE GAS AND OIL LINES LEADING TO THE BARRANCABERMEJA REFINERY.

3. IN A SEPARATE WORKING DOCUMENT, OCCIDENTAL ESTIMATES THAT TOTAL REPAIR COSTS DUE TO SABOTAGE SINCE JULY 1, 1986 HAVE BEEN US 12.3 MILLION DOLLARS. LOST PRODUCTION TOTALS 582,348 BARRELS, AND CRUDE LOSS DUE TO SPILLS (LESS THE MAJOR SPILL OF NOVEMBER 5 WHICH HAS YET TO BE QUANTIFIED) TOTALS 54,937 BARRELS.

4. OCCIDENTAL REP TOLD ECONOFF THAT THE EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL (ELN) IS WORKING IN A VERY COORDINATED FASHION ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE OF THE

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PIPELINE. HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS COORDINATION WITH THE M-19 AND THAT PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACKS IN M-19 AREAS COULD BE NEXT ON THE AGENDA. HE SAID THAT IT APPEARS THE GUERRILLAS MOVE AROUND FROM ONE ATTACK SITE TO THE NEXT FREELY. THE MILITARY DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROTECT THE PIPELINE. THE PUMPING AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES ARE PROTECTED. AS THE RECORD

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ABOVE SHOWS, INDIVIDUAL VALVES ARE ATTRACTIVE TARGETS AS
ARE EXPOSED STRETCHES OF THE PIPELINE ITSELF. IN
ADDITION, THE RECORD SHOWS THAT THERE ARE OTHER QUOTE
SOFT UNQUOTE TARGETS IN ARAUCA AS WELL. THE ATTACK NEAR
BARRANCABERMEJA PROVES THAT THE GUERRILLAS HAVE REACH
WHEN THEY WANT IT AND THAT, IF THEY DECIDE TO DO SO,
THEY COULD ATTACK THE REFINERY LOCATED THERE.

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6. OCCIDENTAL REP ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE 3,000 ARMED

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GUERRILLAS IN THE COORDINADORA NATIONAL GUERRILLERA (CNG) AT THIS TIME WITH AS MANY AS 10,000 - 15,000 UNARMED SUPPORTERS. ALTHOUGH THE GUERRILLAS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, HE SEES THE SCOPE OF OPERATIONS ALONG THE PIPELINE AS INDICATIVE OF A REASONABLY GOOD COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE AND AS INDICATIVE OF FAIRLY GOOD GUERRILLA MOBILITY.

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8. AS AN ASIDE, OCCIDENTAL REP NOTED THAT FRICTION HAS IN THE PAST DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE CNG AND THE FARC IN THE ARAUCA AREA. ARAUCA IS UNION PATRIOTICA (FARC POLITICAL PARTY) TERRITORY. ELN ACTIONS ARE LIMITING WHAT THE UP WILL BE ABLE TO DO TO PROVE IT CAN MEET PUBLIC NEEDS IN THE AREA. INSTEAD OF BEING ABLE TO CALL ON SIGNIFICANT OIL ROYALTY RESOURCES, ATTACKS ARE LIMITING WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE UP. THIS CONCERN, HE FELT, IS INSTRUMENTAL IN KEEPING THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS DOWN.

9. REGARDING REPORT IN REF A, OCCIDENTAL REP CONFIRMED
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THAT THE ELN IS PROMOTING A CIVIC STRIKE ALONG THE PIPELINE AND THREATENING WORKERS AT THE BANADEA PUMPSTATION. THE THREATS REACHED A POINT 11/13 THAT ECOPETROL EMPLOYEES ABANDONED THE STATION LEAVING ONLY OCCIDENTAL PERSONNEL THERE TO RUN IT. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS POPULAR DISSATISFACTION AMONG THOSE LIVING ALONG THE PIPELINE WITH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE GOC. PEOPLE BELIEVE THE GOC IS NOT LIVING UP TO PROMISES MADE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE. THE ELN IS PROBABLY FOSTERING THIS VIEW. OCCIDENTAL REP SAYS THE COMPANY WILL NOT BE FORCED OUT OF THE STATION OR ANY OTHER

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FACILITY ALONG THE LINE. TO LEAVE WOULD BE TO GIVE IN
TO GUERRILLA DEMANDS, SOMETHING QUOTE OCCIDENTAL CANNOT
DO IF IT IS TO KEEP WORKING HERE UNQUOTE.

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